aqua farms cause salinity, sedimentation and health hazards, besides polluting drinking water.

Under these circumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any scientific study has been conducted by the experts under the I.C.A.R. ? If so, what are the findings thereof ? If not, I would like to know whether the Government propose to conduct any in-depth study to determine the bad effects on the ecology as well as the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it is a fact that a very serious situation has arisen due to the judgement of the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court is the Supreme Court. So, we have to abide by their judgement. We are trying to have some type of legislation If the House so agrees, it can, both protect the ecology as well as the farmers' rights. We are thinking about it.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, my question is, whetner any study has been conducted under the I.C.A.R. about the bad effects on the ecology and the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the I.C.A.R., as a whole, has not conducted it, but it has done it partly. Some other organisations have done it and based on that the Supreme Court has given its judgement.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we all know that a great damage has been done to the ecology of our coastal belts due to the setting up of these aquaculture farms. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any concrete plans or proposals with the Government to rectify the ecological damage already done to the land ? If so, what are the proposals ? Will the hon. Minister spell out the concrete proposals ?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the matter is before the Supreme Court for review. I cannot give him the details. Let them pass orders. Only then I can say something.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But do you have any plan to rectify the ecological damage ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will tell you that the aquaculture business which will be carried on in future, will take into account the ecology first and then other things.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Varieties of Cash Crops

*328. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has developed some new varieties of cash crop seed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the new seeds are likely to be used; and

(d) the results likely to be achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cotton variety — 'Pusa B-6' has been identified for late sown conditions in Punjab, Haryana, Northern Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Grape hybrid 'Pusa Navrang' has been developed for Northern India. It is good for making juice and coloured wine.

Bhindi variety 'Okra A-4' a yellow vein mosaic virus resistant variety has been released for the whole country

Four varieties of Gladioli namely Neelam, Suryakiran, Dhanwantri and Sangervani and five varieties of roses namely Mother Teresa, Nehru Centenary, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Lahar and Chitra have been released recently.

Additionally a wide choice of improved varieties/hybrids of different cash crops have been developed and released for general cultivation by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its Institutes spread all over the country.

(d) The above varieties will help in increasing productivity of these crops resulting into higher profitability to the farmers.

[Translation]

Productivity Rate of Foodgrains

*329. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas where productivity rate of foodgrains is below than that at the national level;

(b) if so, the names of such areas along with the rates of productivity of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and other foodgrains there; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government on priority basis to raise productivity level of the foodgrains in the said areas ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement giving the average productivity for triennium ending

1995-96 in respect of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and other foodgrains (*i.e.* coarse cereals) for the States where there are lower productivity rates than the national averages, is attached.

(c) To increase the production and productivity of foodgrains and oilseeds the Government is implementing various Central/Centrally sponsored schemes namely :

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice);

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat);

(iii) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP);

(iv) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals);

(v) Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP).

Through these schemes, assistance is provided for use of location specific high yielding seeds including hybrids of paddy and coarse cereals, improved farm and plant protection implements, drip & sprinkler irrigation sets, bio-fertilizers adoption of integrated pest management, organisation of field demonstrations and training of farmers.

Statement

Average Productivity of Selected Crops for triennium ending 1995-96 for the States, where these are lower than the national average productivity levels

(Kg/Hec.)

Wheat		Rice		Pulses		Oilseeds		Coarse Cereals	
State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield
Assam	1222	Arunachal Pradesh	1102	Andhra Pradesh	423	Assam	507	Assam	610
Bihar	2062	Assam	1345	Assam	534	Bihar	626	Gujarat	858
Gujarat	2342	Bihar	1323	Gujarat	575	Gujarat	829	Haryana	924
Himachal Pradesh	1375	Gujarat	1466	Himachal Pradesh	303	Jammu & Kashmir	490	Madhya Pradesh	788
Jammu & Kashmir	1446	Himachal Pradesh	1314	Jammu & Kashmir	532	Karnataka	629	Maharashtra	869
Karnataka	735	Madhya Pradesh	1152	Karnataka	420	Kerala	596	Orissa	779
Madhya Pradesh	1661	Maharashtra	1616	Maharashtra	538	Maharashtra	762	Rajasthan	466
Maharashtra	1379	Meghalaya	1124	Orissa	509	Orissa	530		
Rajasthan	2230	Mizoram	1530	Rajasthan	428	Rajasthan	766		
Sikkim	1801	Nagaland	1315	Tamil Nadu	417	West Bengal	780		
Uttar Pradesh	2422	Orissa	1418						
West Bengal	2324	Rajasthan	988						
		Sikkim	1316						
		Tripura	1843						
		Uttar Pradesh	1875						
		Pondicherry	1590						
All India	2478	All India	1885	All India	586	All India	831	All India	936

Note : States having production less than 10,000 tonnes not considered.

States having Higher Productivity than the National Average

Wheat		Rice		Pulses		Oilseeds		Coarse Cereals	
State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield	State	Yield
Punjab	3993	Punjab	3342	Kerala	1069	T.N.	1458	W. Bengal	2198
Delhi	3769	T.N.	3234	Haryana	1008	Haryana	1355	Punjab	2008
Haryana	3663	A.P.	2581	U.P.	840	Punjab	1258	H.P.	1967
		Haryana	2576	Punjab	833	M.P.	843	Bihar	1578
		Karnataka	2379	Bihar	729	U.P.	639	J&K	1556
		W. Bengal	2059	M.P.	659	A.P.	832	U.P.	1283
		Kerala	1963	W. Bengal	623			T.N.	1203
								Karnataka	1192

Wheat Stocks

*330. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV .

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether stock of only two million tonnes of wheat is estimated to be available in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India on 1st April, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is the lowest quantity of wheat stock as compared to previous years of the ninth decade;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that sufficient stocks of wheat are built up without any further delay so as to provide food safety and protect interests of vulnerable sections of the society ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The likely stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.4.1997 is projected at 2.72 million tonnes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have decided to import upto two million tonnes of wheat in 1996-97 to augment availability in the country. A quantity of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat has already been contracted for import from Australia, Canada and Argentina. Some of other important steps taken to ensure that sufficient stocks of wheat are built up include:—

(i) increase in the Minimum Support Price of wheat for procurement during 1997-98;

(ii) preponing procurement season from 1.4.1997 to 17.3.97;

(iii) ban on issue of fresh Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) or revalidation of RCACs already issued for export of wheat and wheat products during 1996-97;

(iv) decision not to announce any export ceiling of non-durum wheat in the Export Policy for 1997-98;

(v) import of wheat in 1997-98 as and when necessary.

Government constantly review the stock position of wheat, likely production, anticipated procurement, requirement for PDS, open market prices etc. for appropriate additional measures.

Area Under Soyabean Cultivation

*331. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area in hectares under the cultivation of soyabean during the 1994, 1995 and 1996 in each State;